Red River Gorge

Volume 7, Issue 1 – March, April, May 2015

Upcoming Events

Gladie Center

Monday March 9

Gladie Center

Expanded Hours



Sat. March 21 **Building for** Bluebirds



Sat. April 4 "The Lorax" Arbor Day



Sat. April 11 Wonders of Wildflowers*



Sat. May 18 Herpetology Olympics*



Sat. April 25 Earth Day with Woodsy Owl

9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 7 days / week

Gladie Center

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*Free events at Gladie complement Wildflower and Herpetology Weekends at Natural Bridge State Park

Wildlife

Wildlife Worries

Throughout the year, the Gladie Visitor Center receives calls from visitors who have found injured or abandoned wildlife. Unfortunately, the Forest Service is not equipped to care for these creatures. What should visitors do if they encounter injured or abandoned wildlife in the Red River Gorge? The course of action varies depending on if the animal is injured or abandoned.

The staff at the Gladie Center found out how to handle injured wildlife last fall. The Gladie Center began to receive multiple reports of an injured barred owl on the suspension bridge trail. Firstly, Gladie staff visited

the Kentucky department of Fish and Wildlife website to find a list of wildlife rehabilitators. The closest raptor rehabilitator to Gladie was the Broadbent Wildlife Sanctuary of Irvington, KY. After consulting with Broadbent staff, Gladie staff traveled to the suspension bridge trail to check on the owl. The barred owl appeared to have suffered head trauma and was minimally responsive to the presence of humans. Gladie staff, with the use of leather gloves and a towel, placed the owl in a box and transported it to the Gladie Center. The Broadbent Wildlife Sanctuary scheduled to pick up the barred owl later that evening. The barred owl was treated at Broadbent and once healed, will be release back into the wild. If unsuitable for release, it will serve as an educational ambassador.



In spring, reports of "abandoned" wildlife increase with the abundance of young. Wildlife Biologists with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources recommend that visitors leave wildlife alone that appear to be abandoned. By picking up young wildlife, visitors do more harm than good. Numerous species of wildlife leave their young for long periods of time each day, only to return and care for them. Many bird species learn to fly by experimentation, which involves falling and/or flying out of the nest. If a visitor discovers a young mammal or bird, they should not handle it. Leaving young animals alone reduces stress and increases the odds of the mother returning to care for it. If you see young wildlife alone, leave it be. Nature has a way of taking care of itself.

News and Updates

Indian Creek Project

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources and Daniel Boone National Forest are joining forces to restore land and water quality in the East Fork of Indian Creek. The area will be temporarily closed while project activities are ongoing.

"The first stage of the project will be the removal of two low water dams and two plank crossings," said Tim Eling, Acting District Ranger for the Cumberland Ranger District. "These manmade structures are

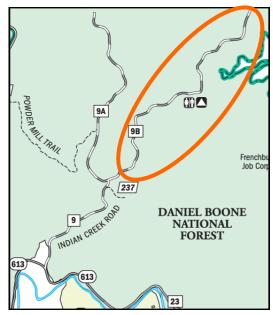
preventing natural water flow, causing soil erosion along the banks, and impeding fish travel up and down the stream.

"The restoration project will correct the erosion issues and improve water quality, recover habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species, and enhance recreational opportunities in the area for camping, hiking and fishing."

Forest visitors will see noticeable improvements as new campsites and parking areas are developed. Hikers and anglers will be able to walk trails following completion of the project.

A gate will be installed nearly one mile from the current end of Forest Service Road 9B to reduce the frequency of vehicle traffic. By limiting vehicle traffic in this area, water quality will be improved by reducing sediment into the stream. The road will remain open for administrative use and public foot travel.

Trout stocking will be temporarily suspended at Indian Creek while project activities are being conducted. Trout stocking will resume as scheduled in October 2015.



Forest Service Road 9B will be Temporarily Closed



One of two culvert bridges to be removed

Project activities are expected to begin by mid-March and continue over the next four to six months. During this time, all of Forest Service Road 9B will be closed.

Contact Us

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U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Southern Region